# What is a Community Association?

A community association is a group of individuals with shared interests who meet regularly to accomplish common goals.  An association may include homeowners, renters, apartment residents, business owners, school parents, religious congregations, parents and other caregivers, and members of non-profit organizations.  Community associations include homeowners, citizens, or neighborhood associations.

Groups such as swim and tennis clubs, mom's clubs, garden clubs, PTAs, and religious organizations may also be seen as community associations.  In many cases, these organizations are the primary communities individuals are active in.

## What are the benefits of having an association?

Community associations:

- ***Foster a sense of identity.***  A sense of common identity among members can be established and maintained though a range of activities including networking, social events, advocacy and volunteerism.

- ***Facilitate communication.***  Information can also be provided efficiently to a greater number of neighbors, resulting in a benefit to the community as a whole.  Meetings provide opportunities for members to discuss issues and work toward resolving problems.

- ***Build relationships.***  A community association is one of the best ways to build relationships between neighbors. Association meetings provide an opportunity to get to know your neighbor through social activities. Building relationships helps neighbors become familiar with each other's needs, interests and become more supportive in problem solving.

- ***Create an organized, unified voice.***  Through a community association your neighborhood has a unified voice in County government and helps with identifying issues, creating partnerships and setting priorities.  County services can often be provided to your community more efficiently through an association.

- ***Improve neighborhoods.***  Residents of your community can work through the community association and County staff to develop long range beautification and improvement projects.